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Brandeis University

The Brandeis campus is located in Waltham, Massachusetts USA. It is a decent looking campus, but really nothing special. I was there for the colder months so maybe that plays a part in it not being especially exciting. It is possible that if you come in the warmer months it's a prettier and friendlier campus.

Waltham has some areas that you can find restaurants and bars, but in general Waltham is not exactly a big city and there's not that much to do there. However, you can always go into Boston which is a much bigger city where you can find anything you're looking for and is a half hour to hour bus or train ride away depending on where you live. In Boston you can see plays or concerts, go to sports games, sit in the Boston Common which is a beautiful huge park, eat any kind of food you can imagine, see some interesting bars and just generally tour around the area. Boston has a lot of history and museums so if you like that kind of stuff you'll have plenty to see there.

I didn't use it all that much, but in general I think that the public transit is not amazing in the area. You'll always be able to get from one place to another, but you may have to walk a good amount to get to the nearest stop, or have to switch busses or sometimes the train or bus comes infrequently so you'll have to wait.

I personally didn't live on campus or in Waltham, but it seems that that is what most students do. Almost all of the students in the exchange program rented apartments together within a 15-20 minute bus ride of campus. They found some decent places for decent prices, but for the most part apartments in the area are pretty expensive. Make sure that if you do rent an apartment off campus you do so in an area that the Brandeis shuttle drives through. That'll make it a lot more convenient for you to get back and forth from campus every day and will save you a lot of time too.

In general Waltham/Boston is a pretty expensive area to live in. As I mentioned, housing is not cheap. Also, eating meals out and going out with friends a lot can really add up.

The faculty and courses at Brandeis are great. I honestly felt that I learned more in my one semester there than I had in the previous 2 semesters at TAU combined. The classes are fairly small and participation counts for your grade so you have to be a part of the conversation. It's good because it makes you work on your English and it helps you get to know your fellow students and the professor of the course better. Also, the faculty really wants you to learn the material well so there are a lot of assignments and it is pretty intensive. The professors are always happy to help and always make time to sit down with the students to discuss anything that may be on their minds. There are lots of courses to

choose from (maybe around 100?) and most seem pretty interesting. I really enjoyed 4 out of the 5 courses I studied and my friends seemed to enjoy most of their courses as well. I didn't deal with the Student Government so to be honest I really have nothing to say on the subject.

In terms of fun activities, Brandeis actually wasn't so great. They did host a few events, but there seemed to be very little interest on the students' part and I think the events weren't so much fun. I would have liked there to be more activities, especially for the exchange students, but if you really want to do something exciting and special for the most part you and your fellow exchange students will have to plan it yourselves.

I'm an American citizen so I didn't have to take out a Visa, but I'm fairly certain that that is something you will have to deal with (assuming you're not an American citizen). Since I didn't have to do it myself I have very little to say about it, except for the fact that if I'm not mistaken Brandeis makes an effort to help you out with the process.

Conclusions:

Negatives about Brandeis:

Cold weather (depending on the season of course)

Not a pretty campus

Somewhat expensive area

Not an especially exciting area

Not a party school

Positives about Brandeis:

Great faculty, professors and courses

culture and history Boston has a lot of

America's Northeast is beautiful and has a lot to offer and see

Nice students, a lot of Jews and some Israelis as well



